

have all thumbed through the shelves of Johnson's selections. They now know what those of us in Springfield have known for years; the charm, character and quality of a local, community-oriented bookstore like Johnson's is a treasure in today's modern society.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today both as a Member of this House and as a frequent patron to say goodbye and thank you to Johnson's Bookstore. The legacy you have left in Springfield will last for generations, and you will certainly be missed.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, this month we celebrate the National Board for Professional Teaching Standard [NBPTS] 10th anniversary. Since its foundation, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards has made tremendous strides in recognizing our nation's outstanding teachers and elevating the performance level of our public educators. I am extremely proud that North Carolina's Governor, the Hon. Jim Hunt, who has been committed throughout his esteemed public service career to ensuring that our children obtain a quality public education, was the driving force in the creation of this important organization and has served as the NBPTS chair since the board's creation in 1987.

Prior to the foundation of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards no national consensus existed as to the criteria for accomplished teachers. The NBPTS recognized that strengthening the quality of our teachers is the most direct action our Nation can take to improve our students' performance. The board created a rewarding professional development program and a stringent certification process for teachers. Thirty two states have incorporated the national board certification process into their school systems. Board certification effectively challenges and encourages talented teachers to stay in the classroom as well as providing an incentive for high caliber new teachers to enter the profession. Governor Hunt exemplifies the mission of the NBPTS, "Ultimately, all learning comes down to what goes on between teachers and students. By raising standards and encouraging teachers to improve, the National board is channeling education improvement into the classroom to benefit students."

After 10 years at the helm of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Governor Hunt is passing the torch to Barbara Kelly, an experienced educator from Maine. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for Governor Hunt's distinguished leadership of this important organization. Governor Hunt has worked tirelessly in his unprecedented four terms as the Governor of North Carolina to improve the quality of public education in our State and across the Nation. He broke new ground in educational development when he helped ignite the national board, as he has with numerous other education programs in North Carolina and across the Nation. I applaud Governor Hunt's impressive

leadership of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and his continued dedication to the improving and strengthening educational standards, and thus brightening our Nation's future.

ARMING AND TRAINING BOSNIAN FEDERATION FORCES—MAINTAINING A BALANCE OF POWER

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the article below appeared in the New York Times. It was around this time that I had just returned from Bosnia visiting our troops and U.N. officials. I take exception to the article, which left a strong impression that the United States policy of arming and training the Bosnian Federation Army has reversed the balance of power in Bosnia and created a potent military force that is now capable of crushing the Bosnian Serb forces. An unnamed European NATO commander also is quoted making the irresponsible statement that "the question no longer is if the Muslims will attack the Bosnian Serbs, but when."

I have been involved in military affairs for a good portion of my life having served in the Marine Corps during the Korean and Vietnam wars and on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee of the House of Representatives since 1979. I have been in Bosnia nine different times over the last 5 years including visits during the war when the UNPROFOR mission was on the verge of collapse. I have discussed our "train and equip" policy in detail with NATO commanders on the ground in Bosnia, with American, British, Bosnian, Croatian, OSCE, and U.N. diplomats, with intelligence analysts in Washington, with the military trainers doing the actual training, and with United States sergeants who patrol the streets of Brcko. I get a far different picture from most of these experts than what was stated in the article.

Most knowledgeable experts agree that the Bosnian Federation army is years away from being an effective fighting force capable of combined arms maneuvers. During the devastating Bosnian conflict, the Muslim army was personnel-rich but equipment-poor. The Bosnian Serb army was the reverse, equipment-rich but manpower-poor. The Bosnian Serb military also enjoyed large advantages in organization, training, leadership, and logistics since the preponderance of the force was from the old Yugoslav National Army. The Muslim army avoided utter defeat only by being able to replace its casualties and fill the gaps faster than the smaller Serb army was able to fully exploit its battlefield successes. But even near the end of the conflict when Muslim forces achieved their greatest success, the weakened Bosnian Serb army was still able to counterattack effectively and retake some key contested areas.

It is too simple to conclude that upgrading Bosnian Federation army equipment and providing a little more than a year's worth of fundamental training will reverse the military balance in Bosnia. The experts I talked to believe the Federation is years away from developing

a trained and cohesive army capable of armored maneuvers. They still have not developed a professional NCO corps necessary to any modern army. They have no ability to supply or sustain the equipment they have received. Their officer corps—which is being taught defensive tactics, not offensive tactics—is still in its infancy. They have no intelligence capability and only a fledgling communications system.

While the Bosnian Serb army has been substantially degraded, it is no secret that supplies, modern equipment, and other warfighting assets could quickly become available to them if renewed hostilities broke out, especially if the Bosnian Federation were seen as the aggressor. While morale among the Bosnian Serbs is low at this time and there are deep division, I believe that this would quickly change if they were attacked. Even if the Federation forces were to have initial military success, they know that such early successes could easily evolve into a wider regional conflict in which the Federation would have few international supporters.

This is not to say that we should turn a blind eye towards how the "train and equip" program is progressing. There is wisdom in achieving rough military parity between the adversaries in this region. It would be a serious blunder if, in the name of achieving this parity, we were to actually reverse the balance and create a new military power capable of offensive action that was bent on revenge.

I am satisfied that our experts in the region understand this delicate situation. They are working hard to ensure that the new Bosnian Federation military is a professional, defensive-minded force that understands both its capabilities and limitations.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 3, 1997]

BOSNIAN MUSLIMS SAID TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO REARM IN SECRET

(By Chris Hedges)

SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA.—The Muslim-led government in Sarajevo appears to be intensifying a clandestine program to arm and train its military, and senior NATO officials say it is close to—or may already have achieved—the ability to mount a crushing offensive against the Bosnian Serb-held part of Bosnia.

"The question no longer is if the Muslims will attack the Bosnian Serbs, but when," said a senior European NATO commander. "The only way to prevent such an attack, at this point, is for the peacekeeping mission to extend its mandate."

The NATO officials were united in favoring an extension of the NATO peacekeepers' mandate, and none of them suggested that the Sarajevo government would attempt a military offensive with NATO troops still in place. The peacekeepers are scheduled to leave next June, but the Clinton administration, recognizing the slow pace of reconciliation in Bosnia, has recently joined other NATO allies in favoring an extension of the NATO force, which includes American troops.

U.S. congressional opposition, the strength of which has yet to be tested, appears to be the only remaining obstacle to a continued NATO presence that the officials agreed would offer the best chance of averting a resumption of the 1992-1995 Bosnian war. It appeared that the NATO officials willingness to talk about the Muslim buildup was an attempt to influence the debate on Capitol Hill.

NATO aside, all other factors point toward renewed military confrontation. The NATO

officials noted that while the Muslims are busy building a formidable military machine, the Bosnian Serb army is imploding under the weight of the current power struggle, a lack of funds, poor morale, a severe shortage of spare parts and high desertion rates.

There have been several indications over the last few weeks that the Bosnian government's secret weapons acquisition program and clandestine training has been stepped up. For example, an Egyptian freighter sailing under a Ukrainian flag sits quarantined under NATO guard in the waters off the Croatian port of Ploce, its hold filled with 10 Soviet-built T-55 tanks half were to be delivered as part of a secret arms shipment to the Bosnian Muslim army.

All weapons deliveries are supposed to be shared between Muslim and Croatian units in the united force established under the peace accord. The Muslim-Croat force exists largely on paper, however, and NATO officials said the T-55s were to be delivered only to the Muslims.

A spokesman from the State Department's Task Force on Military Stabilization in the Balkans reached in Washington described the impounded weapons as a "procedural" problem that "will be resolved shortly."

But senior NATO officials described the Americans at being angry about the shipment, and said that other shipments have managed to elude NATO monitors and have been delivered. There have been reports in recent weeks of heavy arms shipments arriving in the Croatian port of Rijeka which is not monitored by NATO soldiers as Ploce is, senior officials said.

These officials also said that an Iranian Revolutionary Guard general was posted to the Iranian Embassy in Zagreb, Croatia's capital, and that since his arrival in August he has apparently been working out deals with the Croats to smuggle more weapons to the Muslims. And NATO officials say they have received several intelligence reports of clandestine infantry training for Bosnian Muslim soldiers in Iran and Malaysia.

The clandestine effort to build up the Bosnian army is in violation of the Bosnian peace agreement which sets strict limits on the number of heavy weapons possessed by each side. The rearmament effort comes in parallel to a Washington-backed program, known as "equip and train," that provides instruction and NATO armor and artillery to the Bosnian Croats and Muslims. The \$300-million program, which has included the delivery of advanced American tanks two generations ahead of anything in the Bosnian Serb arsenal; has in the eyes of many senior NATO officials including the British, already tipped the military balance in favor of the Muslims.

Senior Russian commanders, who are increasingly nervous about the Muslim buildup against their traditional Serbian allies, recently met with senior Bosnian Serb generals and handed them classified NATO satellite photos of military training camps set up for Bosnian Muslims in an effort to warn the Serbs of the impending debacle, according to Western diplomats.

"The Bosnian Serb generals were stunned," said a senior Western diplomat who was informed of the meeting. "The mood in the room was very black."

The Bosnian Muslims insist that they are only acquiring weapons and training under the strict limits set down by the Bosnian peace agreement and under the guidelines of the "equip and train" program.

"A needle can't get in here without NATO knowing about it," said Mirza Hajric, and adviser to President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia. "Anyone who believes this stuff can be smuggled in here is a fool. Apparently the

Ministry of Defense did not properly inform the U.S. officials about this ship, but NATO was informed. It is just poor communications. I assume it was a mistake. As far as training goes there is no military training of Bosnians in Iran or other countries. All training is done under equip and train."

NATO strategists, who expect the Muslims to first try to seize the Serb-held lands in eastern Bosnia, say the region could fall "in a matter of days."

"We also expect most all of the Serbs there to be driven into Serbia," said a senior NATO commander, an event that could force Belgrade, even against its will, to intervene. This is a high-risk operation."

The officials also outlined a scenario in which the Bosnian Muslims and Croatia would resume the joint offensive in northwestern Bosnia that they pursued with such success in the final months of the war. The Muslims and Croats recaptured large chunks of territory in August and September 1995 and threatened Banja Luka, the largest town under Bosnian Serb control, before Washington imposed a cease fire. Muslim and Croatian commanders often speak bitterly of Washington's decision to intervene.

Croatia, which has a larger military budget at \$1.4 billion than Poland, a much larger country, is as busy rearming as the Muslims, cutting arms deals worth tens of millions of dollars with companies in Turkey and Israel, these NATO officials said.

"The Croats are very interested in getting their hands on western Bosnia," said a NATO official. "The attitude is that they will get whatever they can get now by helping the Muslims drive out the Serbs. They think they can deal with the Muslims later."

Washington's "equip and train" program, despite all the mounting danger signs, plows ahead as if the peace agreement was on the verge of fulfillment. It is touted by Washington as an effort to build a joint 45,000-strong force of ethnic Croats and Muslims. The Bosnia Croats and Muslims are normally part of a federation, but their continued antagonism has so far made a mockery of American efforts to form joint units and commands.

Military Professional Resources, a Virginia-based private contractor that is carrying out the training, has 200 American trainers, all retired U.S. Army officers or non-commissioned officers, currently in Bosnia. Since Aug. 1, 1996, the contractor has trained close to 5,000 soldiers, most of them Muslims under the 70-30 ratio that is supposed to exist between Muslims and Croats in the putative federation army.

The trainers, accompanied by translators, conduct classes on the operation and maintenance of the donated equipment each day at the old Yugoslav tank base in Hadzici, 15 miles south of Sarajevo.

The warehouses on the base, once filled with old Soviet-style tanks, are now occupied with modern weapons, including 45 American M-60A3 tanks, 12 130mm field guns, 12 122mm howitzers, 36 105mm howitzers, 80 M-113A2 armored personnel carriers, 31 French troop transport vehicles, and 31 French armed scout vehicles donated by the United States, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates.

A factory in Travnik, controlled by the Muslims, is producing about 50 more 122mm howitzers and the United States is scheduled to provide 116 of the biggest guns in its field artillery arsenal, 155mm howitzers.

The federation is permitted, under the quota imposed by the Dayton agreement, to have 273 battle tanks and 1,000 pieces of artillery.

The trainers said the hardware being provided to the federation outclassed anything the Bosnian Serbs could put in the field. The

M-60A3 tank's gun has a longer range than that of the T-84, a Ukrainian variant of a Soviet design that is the Bosnian Serbs' best tank.

"This gun can put out four to five rounds a minute with a good crew," said John Reed, 40, from Killeen, Texas. "I would put it up against a T-84 or a T-72 in a minute. It is the best tank in Bosnia."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, October 29, I was detained for health reasons and missed Rollcall Votes 535 through 544.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "no" on Rollcall No. 535, "yes" on Rollcall No. 536, "yes" on Rollcall No. 537, "yes" on Rollcall No. 538, "yes" on Rollcall No. 539, "yes" on Rollcall No. 540, "no" on Rollcall No. 541, "yes" on Rollcall No. 542, "yes" on Rollcall No. 543, and "yes" on Rollcall No. 544.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, on Rollcall No. 547 today, I was mistakenly recorded as voting "yes". I meant to be recorded as voting "no" on Rollcall No. 547, and I ask that this be reflected in the RECORD.

AMERICA'S OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, in 1947, on a simple platform more than 10 miles out in the Gulf of Mexico, a thriving industry was born. America's domestic offshore oil and gas industry is a significant and crucial component of the U.S. economy.

The industry came of age as our country was moving from a wartime to a peacetime economy. Companies, trying to meet the enormous public demand for oil and gas during this time, turned their sights from dry land to the frontier just beyond the water's edge and its ensuing problems. Offshore exploration posed new challenges, such as underwater exploration, weather forecasting, tidal and current prediction, drilling location determination, and offshore communications.

Despite the difficulties in such an undertaking, Kerr-McGee Corp. struck oil on a beautiful Sunday morning on October 4, 1947. This monumental event on Ship Shoal Block 32 in the Gulf of Mexico marked the birth of the offshore petroleum and natural gas industry as it is known today. Kerr-McGee was a small yet determined exploration and production company that predicted the eventual outcome of their daring feat and discovered commercial oil in the world's first well drilled in the open water.

Comparisons with yesterday always compel us. Fifty years ago, the cost of the first offshore project exceeded \$450,000. Today, the costs can reach around \$1.2 billion per project. The first year of production netted 99,371 barrels; today's new deepwater offshore facilities can produce over 100,000 barrels of oil per day. In 1947, the first effort to